

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing chewing gum comprising:

(a) heating and melting gum elements to form a heated and flowable gum base;

(b) passing said flowable gum base to a mixing stage;

(c) mixing said gum base in said mixing stage;

(d) while mixing said gum base adding a nutritional ingredient to said gum base; and

(d) cooling said mixed gum base for further processing.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said nutritional ingredient includes vitamins.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said vitamins include at least one of the group of vitamins A, B and C.

4. The method of Claim 2 wherein said nutritional ingredient also includes minerals.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said minerals include at least one of the group of calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron and chlorides.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (d) includes adding an extract of the aloe vera plant.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (d) includes adding aloe vera gel.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (d) includes adding aloe vera gel in a hydrated form.

9. The method of manufacturing chewing gum comprising:

- (a) forming a heated gum base;
- (b) passing said heated gum base to a mixer;
- (c) adding at least one additive to said gum base in said mixer; and
- (d) adding aloe vera to said gum base in said mixer in addition to said at least one additive.

10. A piece of chewing gum produced by the method of

Claim 1.

11. A piece of chewing gum produced by the method of

Claim 9.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein the amount of said nutritional ingredient is in the order of 2% to 40% by weight of said gum base.

13. The method of Claim 9 wherein the amount of said aloe vera is in the order of 2% to 40% by weight of said gum base.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the amount of said aloe vera is in the order of 5% to 15% by weight of said gum base.